



GROUNDWATER SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

4:30pm – 5:30pm Wednesday 20 July 2022 | Chair: Mary Ewing

ITEM	MEETING
Item 1	<p>Present: Mary Ewing (Chair) - Lachlan Valley Water, Michael Murray – Cotton Australia, Dale Hollis - Bundaberg Regional Irrigators Group, Iva Quarisa - Murrumbidgee Private Irrigators, Jeremy Morton - Ricegrowers Association of Australia, Jim Cush - Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Inc, John Shannon - Border Rivers Food and Fibre, Matt Toscan - Murrumbidgee Groundwater Inc, Matthew Pethybridge - Goulburn-Murray Water, Zara Lowien - Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Inc, Caren Martin - South Australian Murray Irrigators, Isaac Jeffrey – NIC, Rebecca Turpie - NIC</p> <p>Apologies: Wayne Andreatta, Jennifer McLeod - Coleambally Irrigation, Michael Drum - Macquarie River Food & Fibre</p>
Item 2	<p>Minutes of Groundwater sub-committee meeting held 16 February 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business arising & progress on Actions: there were no Actions recorded.
RESO 1	<p><i>Michael Murray moved:</i> <i>That the Minutes of the Groundwater meeting held on 16 February 2022 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</i> <i>Seconded by Mary Ewing</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>
Item 3	<p>General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current issues discussion <p>Iva: Had a meeting with Graham White, NRAR. If licence holders have done the wrong thing, they should just cop it.</p> <p>Jeremy: Originally you weren't allowed to use groundwater for growing rice. It was never changed in the licence plans even though things have changed. It was sorted out with some phone calls. When new agencies are set up, they can only go by what is written down.</p> <p>Matt: Encourage people to go back and look at your conditions. They issued licences that didn't require a logbook. Now they do require it. The rice one was a funny one from the past.</p> <p>Jeremy: If you seek clarification from the department, even though they wrote the conditions, they say to ask NRAR.</p> <p>Mary: in NSW we have to deal with the Draft Groundwater Strategy where we have to submit responses by mid-August. NSWIC set up a meeting for next week. DPIE are going back to basic conditions and going on about areas that are essentially overallocated.</p> <p>Caren: I'd like to have a Coal Seam Gas policy informal talk. Isaac drafted a position statement based on NFF position. We decided CSG as an industry has a right to exist but when it accesses private land it needs to be compensated.</p> <p>Michael M: Cotton Australia has a policy and we discussed changes. We don't know if it will cause economic loss. Impacts on water need to be mitigated.</p>

	<p>Some degree of subsidence occurs when you access CSG. When you take the CSG you go close to dewatering the table.</p> <p>John: There's no case law because farmers can't afford to sue companies. Develop a model land access agreement. Add in low-cost remediation and dispute resolution as well.</p> <p>Matthew Pethybridge, Manager Groundwater & Streams, Goulburn Murray Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level GW management • Monitoring • Compliance • Cross border interaction <p>SEE SLIDES</p> <p>Impacts of over pumping will be borne by everyone in the zone. Groundwater is hard to unbundle from the farm.</p> <p>Mary: Are you looking at worse-case scenario with the 2030 plan and sustainable yield?</p> <p>Matt: yes</p> <p>Matt: aquifer extraction didn't start occurring until the 80s and 90s. 20ML and below has no metering. 400,000ML with 50-60% utilisation. Trading must occur in the same zone. Monitoring is paid for by the customers. Meters are mandated for installation by GMW. Once the initial meter is installed GMW pays for all maintenance.</p>
Item 4	<p>Other business</p> <p>No other business.</p>
Item 5	<p>Meeting close</p>